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MAC News

Midwest Archives Conference

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Ice palace at the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, 1888. Courtesy of the Hamline University Archives.

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MAC Meets at the Headwaters of History! Annual Meeting, April 28–30, 2011, Saint Paul, MN

As this long winter has finally made a turn toward spring, you may find yourself eagerly thinking about shedding layers of outerwear, walking in the warm sunshine, going on a picnic, and of course, the MAC 2011 Annual Meeting in Saint Paul. Your travel plans, hotel reservations, and decisions on what sessions, events, and tours to participate in have probably already been made. But what to do with your free time? Check the MAC 2011 blog (<http://2011mac.wordpress.com>) and monitor the Twitter account (#2011MAC) for insider information—restaurants, local attractions, and other recommendations on where to go and what to see while visiting the Twin Cities. Full details on the meeting are available in the program, available on-line at <http://www.midwestarchives.org/2011meeting>.

As a warm-up to the conference, the tour of the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society's Historic Pub Tour of Saint Paul both take place Wednesday. Attendees of the SAA workshop, as well as early arrivers to the conference, will want to check if space still is available to register for these special events.

The conference will kick off Thursday morning with three informative MAC workshops and five tours of Saint Paul. The formal opening takes place Thursday afternoon with a welcome by our MAC president and a lecture by plenary speaker Dr. Mark Neuzil from the University of St. Thomas. Dr. Neuzil will share the story of the discovery of nineteenth-century cyanotype photographs of the Mississippi River taken by government photographer Henry Peter Bosse. During the afternoon break, you can take the opportunity to browse the many booths at the vendor fair. For those of you who have signed up for the new MAC Pals program, this break in the action will offer you one of the first opportunities to connect with your match. The afternoon continues with the first of our concurrent sessions featuring topics as diverse as architectural records; electronic outreach tools such as Facebook, Twitter, and blogs; and diversity.

New members and lone arrangers will want to spend Thursday evening at the New Members' Dinner and Lone Arrangers Social. Make sure you are signed

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Peanuts Characters in Rice Park, downtown Saint Paul. Courtesy of the Saint Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau.

MAC News—Adriana Cuervo, Assistant Editor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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up! Also, on Thursday night the Local Arrangements Committee will be offering restaurant tours to their favorite bistros; more information on the chosen locations and cuisine will appear on the blog, so stay tuned. Sign-up sheets for the restaurant tours will be posted near the registration desk.

Friday's concurrent sessions offer a wide variety of topics for both the new and the experienced archivist. Attend sessions on workflows for managing electronic records, participate in a discussion of archival issues in a small group setting, discover more about outreach successes and challenges in corporate archives, or learn the ABCs of acquisition and appraisal. Back by popular demand, there will be an open microphone session. Other sessions will cover managing personal or organizational born-digital materials, oral history projects, and simplifying the production of EAD. Brand new to the meeting is a session featuring graduate student papers; don't miss this opportunity to hear from the next generation of archivists!

Other not-to-be missed activities on Friday are the two noontime mini-tours and the continuation of the vendor fair. All loyal MAC members will want to participate in the annual Members' Meeting on Friday afternoon. You'll hear from MAC President Tanya Zanish-Belcher, celebrate MAC award recipients, preview the upcoming meetings in Sioux City and Grand Rapids, and maybe even win a fabulous prize! The fun continues Friday evening with the all-attendee reception at the Wabasha Street Caves, located just a short bus ride from the conference hotel. The final event of the day—the Students/Young Archivist's Night on the Town—will explore some of Saint Paul's finest drinking establishments.

Saturday morning will feature the second annual graduate student poster session. Please take some time to visit with the students and check out their work. Saturday's concurrent sessions feature defining "good enough" arrangement and description techniques; promoting the use of collections through close collaborations with faculty; conducting Web site usability tests; locating, collecting, and keeping Greek student records; working with records creators; and teaching with primary sources.

A few notes for those participating in any of the MAC sponsored tours. Tour attendees are responsible for getting to and from the tour sites. You can find full tour descrip-

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Organizing data for eloquent presentation!



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Midwest Archives Conference Strategic Plan, 2011–2015 December 2010

MAC Mission: Preserving the Documents of the Past and Making Them Accessible to the Future!

Vision: The Midwest Archives Conference serves as leader for the archival profession in the twenty-first century.

- I. **The Midwest Archives Conference will continue its efforts to recruit and retain an active membership deeply engaged and invested in improving MAC and the archival profession through advocacy.**

Explore opportunities for students, those new to the profession, mid-level, and retired archivists.

- Explore the concept of a package deal for the 40th anniversary of MAC (2012 Grand Rapids), combining annual meeting attendance and MAC membership for \$85
- Develop a volunteer Web site, to collect information about those willing to serve and enabling the MAC president to make effective appointments

Explore options for a more diverse generation of archivists.

- Continue to offer opportunities for participating in meeting planning as well as activities for students at the annual meeting
- Encourage Local Arrangements Committees to offer student scholarships for attending MAC meetings
- Investigate collaborative projects with K-12 and college undergraduates, to interest students in the archival profession
- Completely fund scholarships for students of color
- Investigate appointing student representatives to MAC committees

Expand opportunities for archivists outside the MAC region.

- Advertise the value of MAC membership to other regional organizations and individuals
- Promote *Archival Issues* as one of the premier archival journals
 - Advertise value of publishing articles to library schools and public history programs (in the region and outside)

Serve as an advocate for the profession

- Work with other archives groups and organizations to publicize the value of archives and archivists

- II. **The Midwest Archives Conference will support and assist in the professional development of its members.**

Ensure that MAC's annual meeting offers varied opportunities.

- Explore special interest groups (for educators, corporate, and religious archivists) at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Saint Paul
- Host a booth at the 2011 SAA meeting in Chicago
- Continue holding the New Members' Dinner at the annual meeting, and include the MAC president and other officers/Council members to emphasize the value of a MAC membership

Offer mentoring activities

- Offer a "pal" system for navigating the annual meeting at Saint Paul
- "Ask an Archivist" table for the Grand Rapids meeting
- Advertise student awards program
- Brainstorm news ways to mentor those in the profession

Explore collaborative and/or reciprocal arrangements and partnerships for reduced membership/registration fees.

- Discuss with SAA, MARAC, NWA, SSA, etc., as well as state archival organizations
- Explore related cultural groups and organizations (museum, library, historic preservation)

- III. **The Midwest Archives Conference will provide educational resources for the archival profession, as well as those charged with the care of archival material, and expand its educational offerings through a variety of venues.**

Establish a Speakers' Bureau (under the auspices of an expanded Education Committee).

- Those willing can indicate their interest on the volunteer sign-up form

Expand and reorganize the Education Committee.

- The MAC president will appoint in the winter/spring of 2011
 - Oversee all aspects of MAC's educational programming
 - Include representation from archival, library, and public history programs, as well as members from MAC
 - Develop relationships with regional and state archives organizations, allied national organizations, student chapters, and annual meeting and symposium committees
 - Assess the Task Force report (submitted fall 2010)
 - Oversee and coordinate the Speakers' Bureau
 - Identify potential traveling workshops
 - Work with educators to develop and provide sessions, workshops, Web educational materials, and presentations to classes through distance and in-class learning
 - Serve as a resource for the Symposium Organizing Committee
- Annual meeting workshops subcommittee
 - Complete list of previous workshops and instructors
 - Examine methods of assessment
 - Develop a process for proposing new topics and/or workshops

Pursue grant funding for educational programming.

- Prepare NEH grant proposal based on the Archival Training Collaborative
 - Salaried support for an education coordinator to oversee workshops in the MAC region (primarily for nonprofessionals who are charged with the care of archival material)

IV. The Midwest Archives Conference Council will continue to develop the technological infrastructure and governance procedures to better manage MAC's activities.

Continued examination of governance procedures.

- Review of constitution and bylaws
- Consider publications/printing Council liaison position
- Develop a review structure for committee appointments

Investigate out-sourcing of hotel/catering planning for the annual meeting and symposium.

- The vice president will prepare bid information and will keep Council informed

Implement a marketing plan.

- Marketing Subcommittee report will be submitted to Council in spring 2011

Further development of technological infrastructure.

- Implement more of MemberClicks' functionality, including electronic voting for elections
- Finalize Webmaster apprenticeship
- Monitor digitizing and on-line access of *Archival Issues*
- Digitize *MAC Newsletter* and make available on the Web site
- Digitize Council minutes and make available on the Web site

Between-Meeting Council Actions

Council unanimously approved the following motion via E-mail on October 28, 2010:

Provide the 2011 Annual Meeting Program Committee \$100 for use as the top prize in a student poster award contest.

Council approved, with one abstention, the 2011 slate of MAC officer and nominating committee candidates via E-mail on November 10, 2010. Secretary Ranger recused himself due to his inclusion on the slate.

Council unanimously approved the following motion via E-mail on December 3, 2010:

That MAC enter an agreement with InnerWorkings of Chicago to print the 2011 ballot, April 2011 *MAC Newsletter*, and the 2011 Annual Meeting program as a trial to determine the firm's effectiveness.

Council unanimously approved the following motion via E-mail on February 1, 2011:

Approve Jennie Thomas as the new *MAC Newsletter* editor.

Council unanimously approved the following motion via E-mail on February 4, 2011:

Approve Amy Cooper Cary as the cochair of the Education Committee.

Council unanimously approved the following motion via E-mail on February 8, 2011:

Approve the 2011–2015 strategic planning document.



Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings Update

Mark Shelstad, Vice President, Midwest Archives Conference

MAC is returning to Saint Paul this spring, and the programs, speakers, and tours are all in place. Be sure to see the program preview in this newsletter; as usual, there will be a mix of sessions and workshops for newcomers to the profession and for veteran archivists as well. For the latest about the meeting, be sure to check the blog (<http://2011mac.wordpress.com>). A group of roving reporters will be providing updates during the meeting, and afterwards be sure to visit the member's forum area on the MAC Web site for session recaps, links to Twitter and Facebook postings, and presenters' slides.

Sioux City, Iowa, October 20–21, 2011

Focusing on the challenges of preserving magnetic media, the 2011 symposium will feature George Blood of Safe Sound Archive, who will speak on the technological issues associated with this medium, including digitization and reformatting. Elizabeth Clemens from Wayne State University has agreed to present on selection, description, basic preservation, copyright, and working with donors and vendors. Located in downtown Sioux City, the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center will be the site of the symposium. The hotel is a short walk from the city's Fourth Street district, which features a concentration of nineteenth-century commercial buildings, known for their elaborate Romanesque Revival architecture. The area is now a local center of restaurants, bars, and specialty shops. The opening reception on Wednesday night will

showcase the new Sioux City Public Museum, and there will be a walking tour of downtown Sioux City after Thursday's sessions.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 19–21, 2012

MAC's 40th anniversary meeting will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids. The reception will be hosted by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, a short distance across the Grand River from the hotel. Also near the hotel are the new Grand Rapids Art Museum and other cultural attractions. Keep your eyes open for additional information on the reception site, tours, and program information.

Future Meetings

At the time of publication, proposals for the 2012 and 2013 symposia are being crafted, and a group has been formed to host the 2013 Annual Meeting. One of the keys to MAC's success is the willingness of its members to step forward with meeting ideas or to serve on the Local Arrangements or Program Committees. If you would like to bring MAC to your neighborhood, or have ideas for a symposium topic, feel free to contact me at mark.shelstad@utsa.edu. Be sure to check out the meeting planning portion of the MAC Web site, too. The meeting planning manuals contain templates for meeting proposals and numerous tips on planning a successful meeting.

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tions with directions to the locations in the meeting program. Please remember that the times listed reflect the actual start/finish time of the tour, not including any travel time to get to and from the location. Maps of the tour sites can be found on the meeting blog.

While you are taking a break from the whirl of sessions, workshops, tours, and time with colleagues, please take time to recognize and thank the sponsors and organizers of this year's meeting. As always, a significant number of vendors, foundations, businesses, archival organizations, and individuals from the MAC region have provided necessary funding to help support the conference. Their generous assistance keeps the quality of the educational and social experience of our meetings high while keeping

the costs low. We know you appreciate the many volunteer hours put in by the Program and Local Arrangements Committees to make this meeting another resounding success. We look forward to seeing you in St. Paul!



Minnesota State Capitol. Courtesy of the Saint Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau.